

Executive Order 13149: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. A previous Executive Order (E.O.) 13031 (of December 13, 1996) is already in effect to promote federal leadership in the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). Isn't this new Order redundant?

A. No. E.O. 13149, which revokes the E.O. 13031, focuses on petroleum displacement in federal fleets, while E.O. 13031 focused on the acquisition of AFVs.

Q. Will implementation of the two required measures of using alternative fuels in light-duty vehicles and acquiring vehicles with higher fuel economy be sufficient for agencies to achieve a 20% reduction in petroleum use by 2005?

A. It will probably be necessary for agencies to adopt these two measures as well as some of the optional measures offered (e.g., increase in vehicle load factors, decrease in vehicle miles traveled, decrease in fleet size). Each agency, however, must consider its unique fleet configuration and the mission of its operations in preparing its compliance strategy. The Department of Energy's (DOE) E.O. 13149 guidance document contains a complete description of the required and optional measures available.

Q. Why do federal fleets get multiple credits for acquiring dedicated AFVs, while state and fuel provider fleets – also covered under the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 1992 – do not?

A. The federal program falls under Title III of EPA and is not subject to the restrictions within Section 508 of the law. Since federal agencies cannot apply for exemptions and incentives as can other fleets, offering multiple credits for acquiring zero-emission vehicles and dedicated light-, medium-, and heavy-duty AFVs, provides incentives to federal agencies to make these fleet changes. Medium- and heavy-duty vehicles can use up to five times more fuel than light-duty vehicles, so alternative fuel use in these vehicles will significantly displace petroleum use.

Q. Will the new hybrid electric vehicles be considered alternative fuel cars for the purposes of complying with this Order?

A. No. The Order states that agencies should consider procuring "innovative vehicles" such as hybrid electrics because of their significant improvements in fuel economy. However, the Order does not recognize petroleum-fueled hybrids as AFVs. If future hybrids operate on alternative fuels rather than gasoline, they may be reclassified as AFVs.

Q. Which alternative fuels are presently allowable for compliance?

A. Those that qualify include 100% methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols; mixtures containing 85% or more by volume of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols with gasoline or other fuels; natural gas; liquefied petroleum gas; electricity (including that from solar energy); hydrogen; coal-derived liquid fuels; fuel (other than alcohol) derived from biological materials (including 100% biodiesel); and the new P-series fuel.

Q. Will federal fleets be able to sell or trade the excess credits they earn to state and fuel provider fleets?

A. No, the federal fleet credits are not part of the credit trading system available under EPAAct to state and fuel provider fleets. They may sell or trade them with other federal fleets only.

Q. At what level should the data be collected and reported?

A. Agencies may *collect* data at the fleet level or the agency level, or at any level in between, depending on the types of information available and the sources of information that are most reliable and accurate. Agencies *report* data at the agency level. This provides flexibility for an agency to concentrate its efforts on certain key fleets.

Q. If AFVs or alternative fuels are not available throughout an agency's territory, but the fleets are covered by EPAAct, what should the agency do?

A. Other fleets within the agency will have to make up for non-complying fleets. However, in certain situations, OMB, in consultation with DOE, may modify an agency's compliance requirements if the agency can prove it has acted in good faith and made substantial efforts to comply. OMB may also consider modifying an agency's compliance requirements if the costs of AFVs and alternative fuel are too high for the agency's resources.

Q. Where can I obtain a copy of the E.O.?

A. It can be retrieved from the Federal Fleet Web site at www.ott.doe.gov/epact/federal_fleets.html.

For more information, contact DOE's Federal Fleet Program at fed_fleets@afdc.nrel.gov